

Claims

What is claimed is:

1) A Self Locking Hinge comprising:

a first hinge portion, a second hinge portion and a self locking latch;

where each hinge portion comprises a connecting portion containing lobes designed to provide a means to pivotally connect the two hinge portions together and a main body portion designed to connect the hinge portion to an object or objects to be hinged together;

where said self locking latch is spring actuated, pivotally attached to the first hinge portion and containing a lobe designed to engage a recess in the second hinge portion; where said engagement of the self locking latch's lobe into the recess of the second hinge portion provides a means to lock the invention in its engaged position;

where said lobes of the hinge portions are off set from the center axis of their respective hinge portions thereby providing a means to allow the hinge portions to pivotally move in an 180-degree orientation with respect to each other from a disengaged position to an engaged position.

2) A Self Locking Hinge as in claim 1 where the hinge portions and the self locking latch are made from a suitable material, such as metal or plastic.

3) A Self Locking Hinge as in claim 1 where the invention is used in conjunction with wading staffs, ski poles, walking sticks, canes or other poled devices.

4) A Self Locking Hinge as in claim 1 where the invention is used in conjunction with devices that required a collapsible frame, for example, but not limited to, golf carts, baby carriages and collapsible tents.

5) A Self Locking Hinge as in claim 1 where several inventions are used in conjunction with poled, or other, devices so that the devices can be folded in multiple sections to minimize the folded length.